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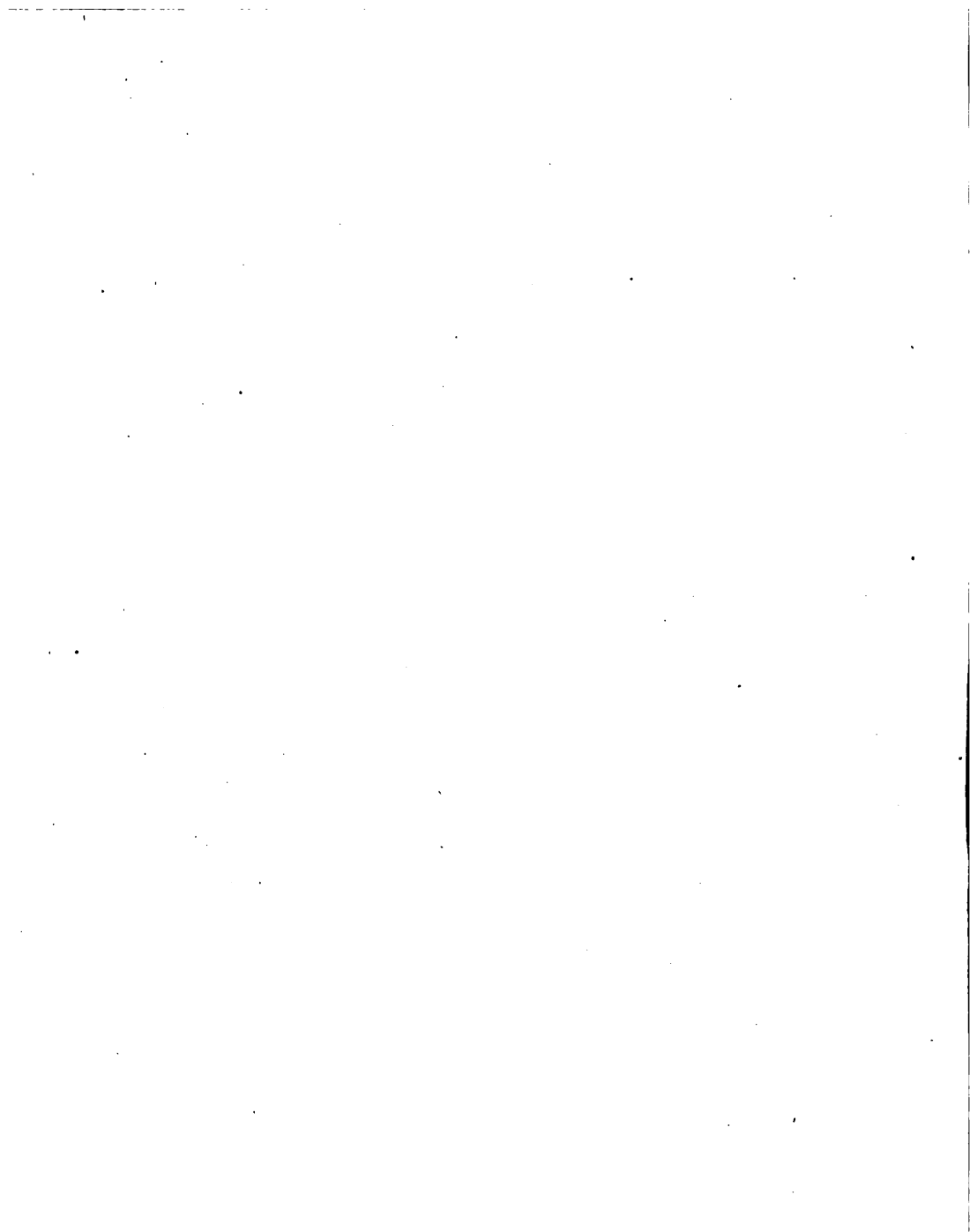
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The image shows a close-up of a marbled paper pattern, likely from an antique book. The pattern consists of repeating, vertically oriented, scalloped or 'combed' shapes. Each shape is filled with a dark reddish-brown color, and the spaces between them are filled with a lighter, yellowish-tan color. The overall effect is a dense, rhythmic texture. On the left side, there is a dark, possibly black, vertical strip, which appears to be the inner hinge or spine area of a book cover. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, rectangular label with gold-colored text.

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A
S E R M O N,
 Preached in the PARISH CHURCH
 Of M A N C E T E R,
In the County of Warwick,
 BEFORE THE
Loyal Atherstone Volunteers,
 Of CAVALRY and INFANTRY,
 On WEDNESDAY the 4th. Day of JUNE 1800,
 Being the Day of the *Consecration and Presentation*
 Of their C O L O U R S,

By the Rev. JAMES CHARTRES M. A.
 Late Fellow of King's Coll. Cambridge,
 Master of the Free Grammar School at Atherstone,
 Curate of Manceter,
 And Vicar of West-Haddon in Northamptonshire.

My Soul confides

In that All-healing and All-forming *Power*
 Who, on the radiant Day when Time was born,
 Cast his broad Eye upon the World of Ocean,
 And calm'd it with a glance: then, plunging deep
 His Mighty Arm, pluck'd from its dark domain
 This Throne of FREEDOM; lifted it to light,
 Girt it with silver Cliffs, and call'd it BRITAIN:
He did and will preserve it.

Mason's Caract.



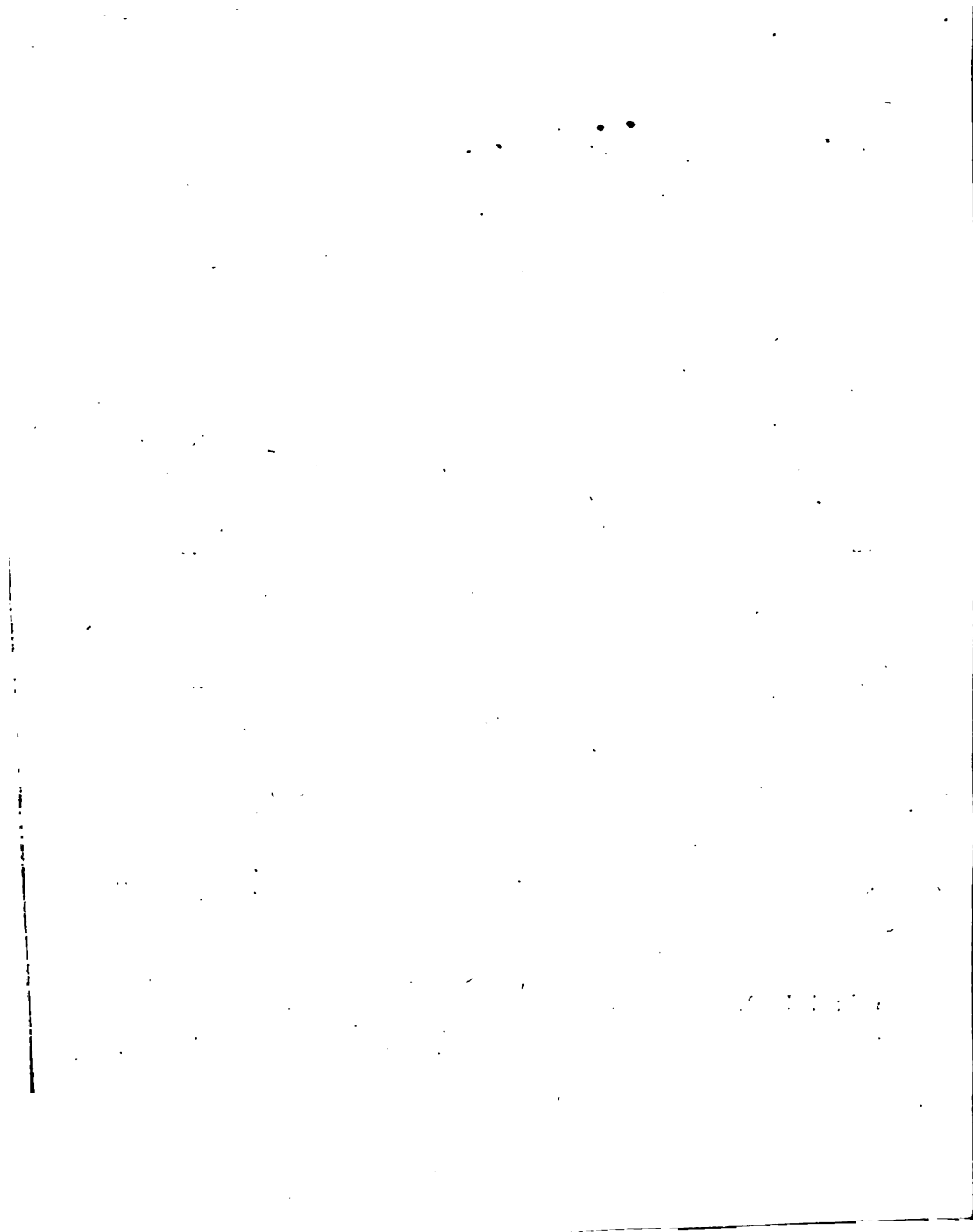
ATHERSTONE,
 (Printed for the Author,)

By James Harris,

And Sold by R. Leigh, Atherstone; R. Rowell, Rugby; T. Burnham and
 W. Birdfall, Northampton; H. Sharpe, Warwick;
 H. Gardner, Strand, and Messrs. Rivington's, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London.

M.D.CCC.
 (Price One Shilling.)

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TO THE
HONOURABLE Mrs. DUGDALE,
AND
Mrs. BRACEBRIDGE.

REQUESTED by the respective Captains, Officers and Corps of the *Atherstone* Cavalry and Infantry, to publish the following Discourse, addressed to them on the Consecration and Presentation of their COLOURS, I presume, *Ladies*, to inscribe it to YOU, as lending your PATRONAGE, and animating their Loyalty on that Day's Solemnity.

Permit me, to lament with you the necessity of the Times, which, to borrow the language of our immortal Shakespear, call for

*“The Royal Banner, and all quality,
Pride, Pomp, and circumstance of War ;”*

An evil, to be deprecated by all Christians, and, more especially, by those of your Sex, & of our sacred Profession. Possessing every milder Virtue, that adorns the Female Character, and gives Lustre to an elevated station, your Natures cannot contemplate, without Surprise and Horror, the Scenes of Blood, which, at the expence of suffering Humanity, have too long polluted the World. How often then, amid the Comforts of domestic Life,—while the One is enjoying

enjoying the sequestered Shades of MEREVALE's Majestic Oaks, and the Other all that Taste can display, in a Modern VILLA at ATHERSTONE,—must both your gentle Bosoms heave a Sigh for PEACE! That soon, very soon, This welcome Blessing may crown your wishes, enhance your own, and the Public happiness; and, progressively diffusing itself thro' the World, in the purest spirit of Christianity, consummate that auspicious Period, foretold by the Prophet,* when, *“Swords being beaten into Plough-shares, and Spears into Pruning Hooks, Nation shall not lift up Sword against Nation, neither shall they learn War any more,”* is the devout Prayer,

LADIES,

Of your most obedient,

And devoted humble Servant,

JAMES CHARTRES.

Atherstone,

July 15th. 1800.

* Isaiah, 2.—4.

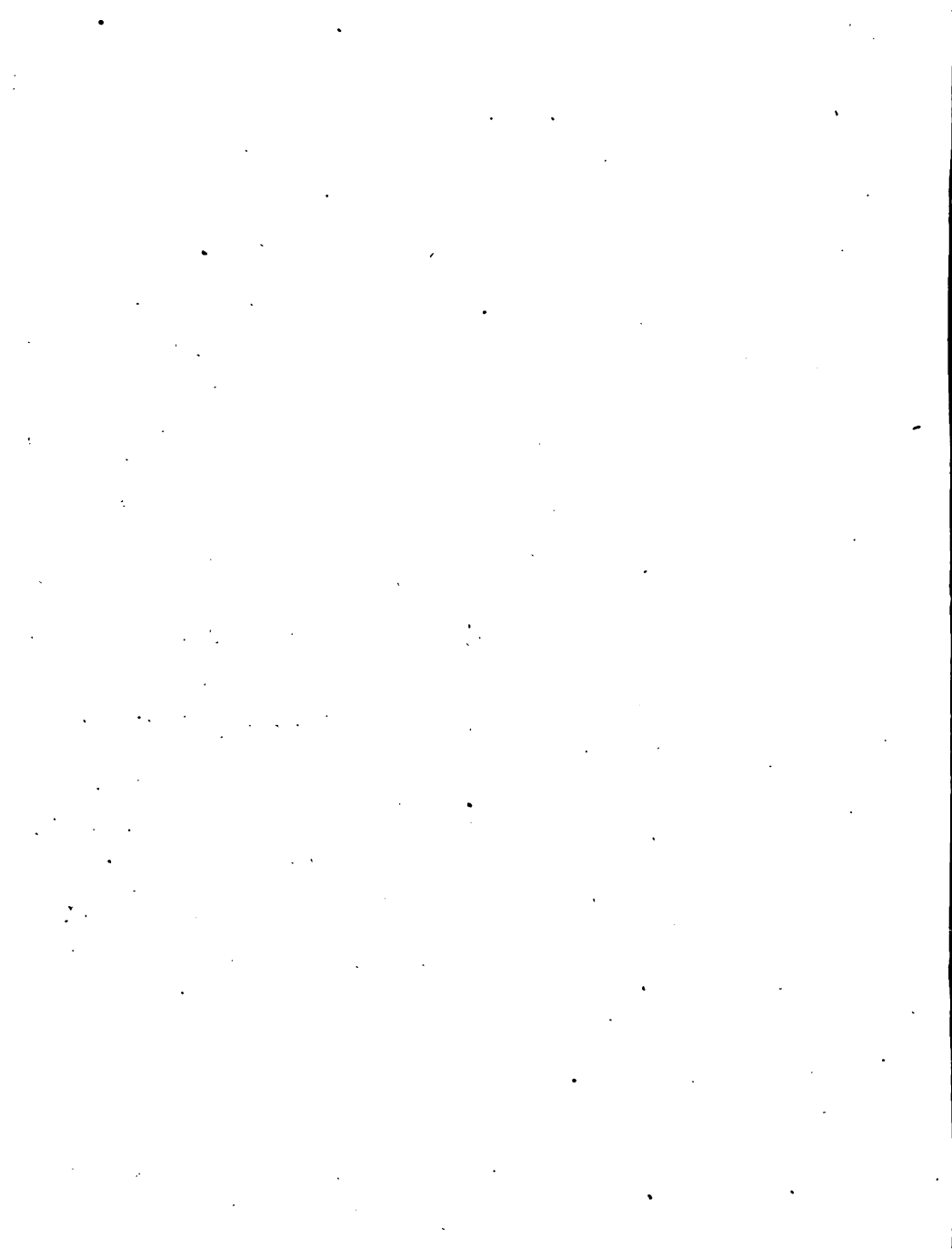
To the R E A D E R.

CUSTOM and due Respect require from an Author, conscious of his demerit, some Apology, however concise, for his intruding himself upon the Public. Suffice it then to say, that the following Discourse, containing some Passages from other Writers upon the same subject, was not, originally, intended for the Press. After this necessary Acknowledgment, the dread of Criticism, upon its Introduction into the World, is overbalanced by a sense of Duty, in complying with the Requests of my Parishoners and Friends. An ardent Zeal for Loyalty has led them to approve both the Sentiments and Subject of this Discourse; and tho' addressed to Them upon a particular Occasion, yet, with a partiality flattering to its Author, They have deemed it not unworthy a more extended circulation:

I am happy in an Opportunity of expressing my Obligations to my Friends; and shall conclude with a Wish, that this short Composition, being less imperfect, had been rendered more acceptable to those respectable Persons, who, by their condescending and liberal Subscriptions, have a claim to my particular and most grateful Remembrance.

Atherstone,
JULY 15th. 1800.

J. G.



A

S E R M O N.

NEHEMIAH, IV. 14.

Be not afraid of them: remember the Lord which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.

IT is very properly observed that the new Testament is no political Book, I mean, that civil and secular concerns are not its end or object. The object of the Gospel of Christ is penitence and reconciliation with God here, and everlasting peace with him in Heaven hereafter. If therefore any Minister of the Gospel unseasonably obtrudes any political speculations of his own upon his hearers, He disparages his high and holy office; for with ordinary

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dinary, secular, occurrences, We, as spiritual teachers, have no concern. But when the general attention is arrested by new and extraordinary occasions, in which the well-being of the whole nation is involved;—when in support of Religion, Government, Subordination and Property against an ambitious & inveterate foe, who stakes his very existence against that of Britain, a great mass of our people, whose daily occupation is any thing but that of arms, have willingly offered themselves, and submit to the laborious duties of military discipline, the principles of peace must in all ranks and professions yield to the more cogent principles of self-defence: the Church of England holds that “Christian men may bear arms at the command of the Magistrate”* We then, tho’ restricted ourselves from military service, consider it no violation of our sacred office to adapt our discourse to such occasions as those of our present meeting; and scruple not to applaud, and as much as lies in our power, to promote the general zeal and patriotism of our Countrymen in arms.

To two Corps of this description I am now called upon more particularly to address myself; and with sentiments congenial to your own, I feel it my first and bounden duty to pray for the blessing of the LORD of Hosts, in behalf of yourselves, my Brethren, and our dear Country, that HE would vouchsafe to prosper your
 • undertaking

* Vide 37th: Art. of Relig.

undertaking, and the cause you have voluntarily engaged to support;—the defence of your native land against insurrection and invasion;—trusting, though Christianity has little to do with arms, yet arms assumed to preserve Religion, and every thing dear to us, as Men and Christians, may not be deemed unworthy of the protection of ALMIGHTY GOD, and most certainly are entitled to the gratitude of your Country.

To animate the heart of every British Soldier, there is much contained in the words of the text; much my Brethren, which may inspire that resolution, which piety and Religion alone can excite, and which is absolutely necessary to our preservation at a crisis, never before experienced by our Country, by our laws, and liberties. *“Be not afraid of them: remember the Lord which is great and terrible, and fight for your Brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your Houses.”*

From this passage of Scripture, three suggestions arise:

First, that of courage and alacrity, in resistance to our ferocious and inveterate foes:

Secondly, the ground of confidence, a Trust in GOD, *“remem-*

ber the Lord which is great and terrible;" and the result of the whole is a consideration of the value of the object for which we contend,—"*fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses*"—these suggestions being as suitable to ourselves, as they were to the Inhabitants of Jerusalem to whom they were at first addressed, I shall proceed to offer some brief considerations upon each of them.

"*Be not affraid of them.*" It is undoubtedly true that we have an enemy to contend with, of great fierceness, cunning, and implacable animosity against us, armed with powers, and aided by circumstances unparalleled in the page of history. We know that as far as plunder can enrich a Nation, the plunder of the most fertile part of Europe has been theirs. "*Before them the land was as the Garden of Eden, and behind them a desolate Wilderness.*"* But this should not appal us. Plunder and rapine may enrich individuals; but seldom supply the sinews of war. The robbers and assassins, whom they call Soldiers, may riot in the spoil of the wretched countries they have over-run, yet little of this reaches the Public coffers; the power and principle then of this destruction can be but of short duration. With respect to individuals, we have already seen many of these plunderers establish a precedent against themselves; by the same rule they com-
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* Joel, 2. — 3.

menced plunderers, they have been plundered in their turn : and with regard to Society, the nature of justice is eternal, the mad speculations and projects of unprincipled and wicked Men, however successful their conspiracies may be for a time, can never be considered as capable of obliterating that sense of right and wrong, which has been implanted in the human mind. If Men retain their nature, faculties and principles, this convulsed and distracted state of things, can no where constitute a permanent government. Society must be established on Religious Principles; and Truth, Equity, Order and Justice still be the support of every civil and valid Constitution.

The consideration of *our* happier state, my Countrymen, will reverse the scene. With *us* remains, by the blessing of GOD, an Army, that knows both how to conquer the ferocious, spare the fallen, and commiserate and relieve the suppliant foe. With *us*, a puissant and victorious Navy commands the Ocean, to extend and protect our own Commerce, and annihilate that of our enemies. Add to these an increasing Population, and our Trades and Manufactures flourishing, all genuine & natural sources of Riches, Strength and Security. With *us*, our Nobles, Tradesmen & Peasants are armed and united, in courage, zeal, discipline and martial array, to protect our property from violence and plunder,

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and to repel the foe, in case of any desperate attack on our native Country, the ancient and renowned sanctuary of Freedom and Happiness; a Country, to which with all its faults, (as a celebrated Author observes, with the energy of truth and pride of patriotism,) the whole World is now looking up with envy and admiration, as the seat of true Glory and Prosperity; a Country, wherein the exile and wanderer, driven out by the crimes of their own, find a home and resting place; a Country, to obtain the protection of which, it is sufficient to be unfortunate, and no impediment to have been the subject of its direct foe.

Notwithstanding then "the waves run high," and danger and difficulties environ us, we have less reason to dread the attempts of our Enemies; and that not so much from our confidence in the arm of flesh, as from our Trust in the most HIGH; "*Remember the Lord which is great and terrible.*" And great thanks are due to HIM, that, though the National Iniquities may be great and grievous, yet, unlike our Foes, *we* have not cast off our Maker. Many of us, I trust, are by the awful events of the times awakened to Recollection and Penitence. By the generality of the British Nation, GOD is acknowledged as their "Rock and Fortrefs." To an English, Heart uncontaminated by the sophistry of modern doctrines, and retaining alive within it a spark of the Principles

Principles which actuated our pious Ancestors, Christianity is congenial. "*Without God in the World*" an Englishman cannot "*find rest for the sole of his feet*". Like the devout Psalmist, "*He cries to God in the time of trouble,*" trusting that, "*through God, we shall do great acts, and that it is He, that shall tread down our Enemies.**" Combining therefore every consideration, we persuade and assure ourselves, my Brethren, that we have no reason for despondency, respecting the Event of the grand Contest in which we are engag'd.

You will permit me then to advert to, what, I am sure, you will anticipate, the awful, unutterable Importance of the Object, for which you are now assembled in Arms; that it is "*for your Brethren, your Sons and your Daughters, your Wives and your Houses.*"

In this Nation there are Those, few in number, I trust, yet, desperate in design, who have the Wickedness and Effrontery to affirm, that we have nothing remaining to us, which is worth contending for; that by the success of our Enemies, the situation of those in the middle; and lower ranks of Life more especially, would be rather improved than made worse. "Be not deceived; evil Communications may corrupt good manners." Yet, however palatable may be this advice, the futility of it must, in great measure, defeat its influence; for devoid of understanding must that

Man be, who can be duped by assertions as false, as they are insidious. Could we but see, for I believe that description can scarcely paint the dreadful situation of those Countries, which the French Armies have over-run,—could we but view the Famine, Murder, Pillage, Insult and Tyranny, under which their devoted victims groan, the weakest Minds would detect and execrate these worst of Enemies, who, by such fallacious doctrines, would ensnare them to their own and their Countrys ruin.—Various are the Objects which surround us, and in the well-fare whereof, we may presume, that every Individual in the state, must feel himself interested,—our Navy, our Commerce, our Property both private and public.—Are these nothing? Yet for these we contend, and against these our Enemies vomit forth peculiar vengeance. Are our Manufactures nothing? For these we contend. Is the Bread we eat nothing? For this we contend. Are the Wives of our bosom nothing? For these we contend;—to preserve them untainted by licentious Ferocity and Insult. Are our Children nothing, whose sweet innocence we defend, either from immediate Slaughter, or from Slavery, worse than Death? Should our Enemies succeed in their attempts and projects—which may God in his Mercy avert!—comparatively happy would be the lot of Those, whom the hands of these Assassins might destroy: most unhappy the Survivors! Well might the latter exclaim in
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the words of the Royal Preacher* *“I considered all the oppressions that are done under the Sun; and behold, the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power, but they had no comforter. Wherefore I praised, the dead, which are already dead, more than the living, which are yet alive.”* Yet to these Horrors it is not to be dissembled, that there are some of our Countrymen wicked enough to conduct us, if we would follow their counsels;—who under the false yet specious maxims of *Equality, Liberty and Sovereignty of the People*, have been endeavouring, though in vain, to alienate the affections of his Majesty's Subjects from his Person and Government; and have spared neither labour nor artifice to check that vigour, and break that union, which alone can save us from the galling yoke of foreign or domestic Tyranny.

In our Sister Island indeed, where the intolerant and sanguinary Bigotry of Popish Priests, and the ignorance and blindness of the Peasantry, co-operated with French agents, French principles, and French Arms, the projects of the Enemy were more successful; and though the open Rebellion which they excited, was but of short duration, we have, nevertheless, to lament the destruction of many Thousands of poor deluded Mortals, who could be so infatuated, as to hope for that protection from their French

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* Eccles. 4.—1. 2.

Invaders, which they were falsely taught, that the equitable Laws of their own free Constitution could not extend to them.

In this wiser and more enlightened part of the Empire, the success of the foreign and domestic agents of Treason and Anarchy has been less prevalent. There was a Time,—and the remembrance of it is painful,—when the minds of many, hurried away by the torrent of new Doctrines, betrayed symptoms of revolt against legal Authority; and the more desperate, and wicked, availing themselves of that moment of danger, were impatient to work the work of Iniquity, and involve the Kingdom in Anarchy and Ruin. At that period, an ardent and active Spirit of Loyalty animated the Good amongst us to incorporate themselves, for the Defence of every thing that is dear and valuable to us; and to the Energies of those different Associations we must, under God, ascribe, in a great measure, the present tranquillity and security of our Country. We have reason also to congratulate ourselves, that those new-fangled and ever changing political Systems, productive of such Mischief and Misery in a Neighbouring Kingdom, have, in this, been exploded; and, with their Lecturers and Teachers, fallen under merited Contempt; whilst the misled, learning wisdom from the Calamities of others, are retracing their foot-steps,—prudently resolving to return to the old paths, in
which

which they had so long, found rest for their Souls. So entirely indeed have the weakness, and the atrocity of the modern Revolutionary doctrines been exposed to the World, that if any Man remains still inclined to embrace them, we must either pity his blindness, or shudder at the depravity of his hardened heart. Our exertions, however, against Revolution and Anarchy are not to be remitted. So long as unprincipled Men remain amongst us, who, to gratify their own passions, would destroy the comforts of social Life, and violate our dearest rights; so long will be manifest the necessity of Associating in support of good Order and Religion. Liberty, without Licentiousness, Equality, without Confusion, Reforms, exercised with due temperance, are highly to be valued: but when the meaning of these terms is perverted, & the terms themselves are made the watch-words of Sedition, it behoves us to be upon our guard. The Sophistical Reasonings which may be deduced therefrom, tho' flattering, abound with danger; and He, who runs, may, from the Ruin of other Countries under similar delusion, anticipate the fatal Result of the Prevalence of these doctrines in our own. As long then, as there are amongst us, Those, who would insinuate that Resistance becomes a duty against, what they choose to call, oppressive Laws, and who, flattering in order to mislead the Multitude, talk of the Sovereignty of the People; to counteract the baneful Effects of this subtle Poison,

we must still, my Countrymen, arrange ourselves around the Standard of Loyalty ; and the strong Arm of legitimate Authority must still be displayed, to restrain these turbulent Spirits, whose Ambition seems equal to their Rapacity, and who, regardless of the Honor of their Native Land, would subjugate it to foreign or domestic Tyranny, with the desperate hope, of either usurping the reins of Government, or of appropriating to their own use a part of the general plunder. But the honest and worthy part of the Nation acknowledge NO OTHER SOVEREIGN, than his most gracious Majesty the KING ; they know and practise the several Duties of their respective stations.—They know that the *Governed* cannot be the *Governors* ; and that “*no Man can serve two Masters*”.*

The late outrageous and Treasonable attempt against the Life of our Monarch—an attempt that has concentrated the feelings and affections of every good subject,—leads me here to observe, that it is Royalty, and not the Person of the King, against which the Regicide and Madman often conspire. Was our Monarch, no more than a private Individual, it appears impossible that he could have a single Enemy. Most exemplary in the relations of domestic Life, and blessed with every Virtue, that adorns Humanity, He conciliates the love and esteem of all around Him. There can
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* Matt. 6.—24:

be then no malice against His Majesty Himself. Whenever Treason lifts its arm against his Sacred Person, we may reasonably suspect that it is against *us*, my Countrymen, -against the *State* and *Constitution*, -the blow is aimed; & whether, in this recent attempt, the Assassin was actuated by Treason, or by Madness, we cannot too ardently express our National Congratulations, for the Preservation of a Life, of the highest Importance to the Community; or the Gratitude we feel toward the Divine Goodness, in protecting it from Evil. Our pious effusions should be extended farther; when we reflect, that, tho' for our Sins, we have been visited with the scourge of a long and expensive War, *our* being exempted from many and various Calamities, inflicted upon *other* Nations, is owing to the same Providential Mercy, Our highly-favoured Isle has not been stained by the Carnage of Battles; we live in the undisturbed possession of our Religion, Laws, Property, internal Peace, and the comforts of social, and domestic Life. Our People are firm, and loyal; our Soldiery are vigorous, and brave; our Seamen have atoned, for a temporary delusion, by rendering Services to their Country, as beneficial, and splendid, as any, which have been recorded, in the Annals of Fame. It becomes us therefore, like their pious, humane and intrepid Commander,* who gave the Glory of Victory to *God alone*, to acknowledge with Him, that it is to the *protecting Goodness of the Almighty*, we, his

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unworthy

• Lord Nelson.

unworthy Servants, are indebted, for these, and all other Blessings. Not unto us, therefore, not unto us, but to the *Lord of Hosts*, be ascribed the Praise, whose Arm hath, in all things the Preeminence.

Whatever, my Countrymen, may be the final Event of the awful scenes, in which the Providence of GOD has placed us; it will be a never failing spring of satisfaction to Yourselves, that the part You have undertaken, and the exertions, You have made, have been worthy the Name, and realized the Character of Christians and Britons. Your Zeal, your Patriotism, and your Activity have been conspicuous; when occasion called to the discharge of your duty, you have been found prepared, and your Unanimity holds out a bright Example to every description of your fellow-Subjects. Your present appearance in this Place, and upon this Occasion, is a Public Declaration, that you dedicate your Service to GOD, to the Maintenance of His Religion, and the established Government of your Country; that you "*fight for your Brethren, your Sons and your Daughters, your Wives and your Houses.*"

When you call to mind the many powerful Motives, that should animate your exertions, for the general Welfare, You will never, I am confident, forget the *fair Hands*, from which, You are, this
Day,

Day to receive your Colours.--The Virtues of domestic Life, when They, who possess them, are living, and present too, cannot with propriety be made subjects of my commendation; and Those, for whom, in secret, the Poor, the Orphan, and the Widow pour forth their blessings, which ascend "as a Memorial" before the most HIGH, need no other Praise.—The Persons of these Matrons will remind you of the *Sex*, which they represent: And be ever preserved in your remembrance, that a Soldier never draws his Sword in a Nobler cause, than, in the defence of that *Sex*, of which, by all the ties of Love, Honor, Virtue, and Conjugal Attachment, He is the natural Friend and Protector.

As the present Day commemorates the Birth of our beloved Sovereign, who honoureth GOD, and whom GOD delights to honour, I know no better conclusion for the present discourse, than to request your united Prayers, for length of Days, Health, and increasing Prosperity to the Father of his People, the Ornament and Pride of our Land, and the true and faithful Protector of the Laws, of the Constitution, and Liberties of Britain. May the same Merciful Providence that has, hitherto, been his "Fortress and his Shield," continue to guard Him, against secret Conspiracy, and open Violence; and dispose our Hearts, as the Heart of one Man, in loyal Attachment to his Person, and in dutiful Submission to

his Authority, and the Laws: And when, full of Years, and gratified with every pleasing Testimony of a Nation's Love, He shall, at last, be gathered to his illustrious Ancestors; may He, then, change a corruptible, for an incorruptible Crown; and may his Royal Posterity, imitating those exalted Virtues, which will consecrate his Memory to future Ages, continue to Reign over a free and united People, in Peace, in Glory, and in Prosperity, until Time shall be no more!

F I N I S.



